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# NOVEL COMPOUNDS

The present invention relates to certain N-hydroxyformamide derivatives useful in the inhibition of metalloproteinases, processes for their preparation, pharmaceutical compositions containing them, and their use in therapy.

The compounds of this invention are inhibitors of one or more metalloproteinase enzymes. Metalloproteinases are a superfamily of proteinases (enzymes) whose known numbers in recent years have increased dramatically. Based on structural and functional considerations these enzymes have been classified into families and subfamilies as described in N. M Hooper (1994) FEBS Letters 354:1-6. Examples of metalloproteinases include the matrix metalloproteinases (MMP) such as the collagenases (MMP1, MMP8, MMP13), the gelatinases (MMP2, MMP9), the stromelysins (MMP3, MMP10, MMP11), matrilysin (MMP7), metalloelastase (MMP12), enamelysin (MMP19), the MT-MMPs (MMP14, MMP15, MMP16, MMP17); the reprolysin or adamalysin or MDC family which includes the secretases and sheddases such as TNF converting enzymes (ADAM10 and TACE); the astacin family which include enzymes such as procollagen processing proteinase (PCP); and other metalloproteinases such as aggrecanase, the endothelin converting enzyme family and the angiotensin converting enzyme family.

Metalloproteinases are believed to be important in a plethora of physiological disease processes that involve tissue remodelling such as embryonic development, bone formation and uterine remodelling during menstruation. This is based on the ability of the metalloproteinases to cleave a broad range of matrix substrates such as collagen, proteoglycan and fibronectin. Metalloproteinases are also believed to be important in the processing, or secretion, of biological important cell mediators, such as tumour necrosis factor (TNF); and the post translational proteolysis processing, or shedding, of biologically important membrane proteins, such as the low affinity IgE receptor CD23 (for a more complete list see N. M. Hooper *et al.*, (1997) Biochem J. 321:265-279).

Metalloproteinases have been associated with many disease conditions. Inhibition of the activity of one or more metalloproteinases may well be of benefit in these disease conditions, for example: various inflammatory and allergic diseases such as, inflammation of the joint (especially rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and gout), inflammation of the gastro-intestinal tract (especially inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis and gastritis), inflammation of the skin (especially psoriasis, eczema, dermatitis); in tumour metastasis or invasion; in disease associated with uncontrolled degradation of the extracellular matrix such as osteoarthritis; in bone resorptive disease (such as osteoporosis and Paget's disease)); in diseases associated with aberrant angiogenesis; the enhanced collagen remodelling associated with diabetes, periodontal disease (such as gingivitis), corneal ulceration, ulceration of the skin, post-operative conditions (such as colonic anastomosis) and dermal wound healing; demyelinating diseases of the central and peripheral nervous systems (such as multiple sclerosis); Alzheimer's disease; extracellular matrix remodelling observed in cardiovascular diseases such as restenosis and atheroscelerosis. and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, COPD (where MMP12 has been implicated).

A number of metalloproteinase inhibitors are known; different classes of compounds may have different degrees of potency and selectivity for inhibiting various metalloproteinases. The present inventors have discovered a new class of compounds that are inhibitors of metalloproteinases and are of particular interest in inhibiting collagenase 3 (also known as MMP-13). The compounds of this invention have beneficial potency and/or pharmacokinetic properties.

Collagenase 3 (MMP13) was initially cloned from a cDNA library derived from a breast tumour [J. M. P. Freije *et al.* (1994) Journal of Biological Chemistry 269(24):16766-16773]. PCR-RNA analysis of RNAs from a wide range of tissues indicated that collagenase 3 (MMP13) expression was limited to breast carcinomas as it was not found in breast fibroadenomas, normal or resting mammary gland, placenta, liver, ovary, uterus, prostate or parotid gland or in breast cancer cell lines (T47-D, MCF-7 and ZR75-1). Subsequent to this observation collagenase 3 (MMP13) has been detected in transformed

epidermal keratinocytes [N. Johansson *et al.*, (1997) Cell Growth Differ. 8(2):243-250], squamous cell carcinomas [N. Johansson *et al.*, (1997) Am. J. Pathol. *151(2)*:499-508] and epidermal tumours [K. Airola *et al.*, (1997) J. Invest. Dermatol. *109(2)*:225-231]. These results are suggestive that collagenase 3 (MMP13) is secreted by transformed epithelial cells and may be involved in the extracellular matrix degradation and cell-matrix interaction associated with metastasis especially as observed in invasive breast cancer lesions and in malignant epithelia growth in skin carcinogenesis.

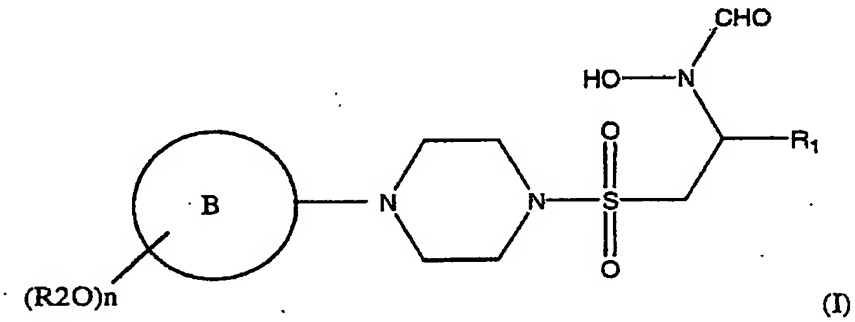
Recent published data implies that collagenase 3 (MMP13) plays a role in the turnover of other connective tissues. For instance, consistent with collagenase 3 (MMP13) substrate specificity and preference for degrading type II collagen [P. G. Mitchell *et al.*, (1996) J. Clin. Invest. *97(3)*:761-768; V. Knauper *et al.*, (1996) The Biochemical Journal 271:1544-1550], collagenase 3 (MMP13) has been hypothesised to serve a role during primary ossification and skeletal remodelling [M. Stahle-Backdahl *et al.*, (1997) Lab. Invest. 76(5):717-728; N. Johansson *et al.*, (1997) Dev. Dyn. 208(3):387-397], in destructive joint diseases such as rheumatoid and osteo-arthritis [D. Wernicke *et al.*, (1996) J. Rheumatol. 23:590-595; P. G. Mitchell et al., (1996) J. Clin. Invest. 97(3):761-768; O. Lindy *et al.*, (1997) Arthritis Rheum 40(8):1391-1399]; and during the aseptic loosening of hip replacements [S. Imai *et al.*, (1998) J. Bone Joint Surg. Br. 80(4):701-710]. Collagenase 3 (MMP13) has also been implicated in chronic adult periodontitis as it has been localised to the epithelium of chronically inflamed mucosa human gingival tissue [V. J. Uitto *et al.*, (1998) Am. J. Pathol 152(6):1489-1499] and in remodelling of the collagenous matrix in chronic wounds [M. Vaalamo *et al.*, (1997) J. Invest. Dermatol. 109(1):96-101].

Compounds which inhibit the action of metalloproteinases, in particular collagenase 3 (MMP 13) are described in WO 00/12478, WO 00/75108 and WO 01/62742. Included among these reported inhibitors are aryl/heteroaryl piperazine sulfonylmethyl substituted N-hydroxyformamide compounds in which the aryl ring is substituted by a number of possible substituents, including *inter alia* alkoxy and aryloxy. There is no disclosure that the alkoxy or aryloxy substituent in such compounds may itself further be substituted.

Substituted alkoxy or aryloxy aryl/heteroaryl piperazine sulfonylmethyl substituted N-hydroxyformamide compounds as inhibitors of matrix metalloproteinases are encompassed within the general disclosure of WO 99/38843. Among the numerous possible substituents for the alkoxy group listed is halogen. No such alkoxy substituted compound is disclosed, however and indeed, the only N-hydroxyformamide compound specifically disclosed is N-{1S-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl) piperazine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-2-methylpropyl}-N-hydroxyformamide.

The present inventors have found that substituted aryl or heteroaryl piperazine sulfonylmethy substituted N-hydroxy formamide compounds in which the substituent is an alkoxy group which itself is substituted by one or more fluorine groups are particularly advantageous metalloproteinase inhibitors, especially of collagenase 3 (MMP13), and have desirable activity profiles.

The present invention provides in a first aspect a compound of formula (I)




(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof,

wherein ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1,2 or 3; and

R1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl , aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.

As used herein, the term 'aryl' means an aromatic carbocylic radical with one or two rings having up to ten ring atoms, such as phenyl or naphthyl. Where a single ring aromatic carbocyclic radical is intended, this is denoted a 'monocyclic aryl ring'. Where it is intended that an aryl ring has six ring atoms, this is specified.

'Heteroaryl' refers to aromatic ring systems having up to ten atoms, especially up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S. Examples include pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiophenyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl and pyrazinyl. Nitrogen heteroatoms will be substituted as necessary, and may also be in the form of N-oxides. Sulphur atoms may be in the form of S, S(O) or $S(O_2)$. Where a single ring heteroaromatic system is intended, this is denoted a 'monocyclic heteroaryl ring' and where it is intended that a heteroaryl ring has a maximum number of ring atoms that is less than ten, this is specified. Where it is intended that a ring heteroatom is one of N, S or O in particular, or that the heteroaryl ring comprises more than one ring heteroatom, in specific combination, for example where each is the same, this is indicated.

The term "halogen" includes fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine, and in particular is fluorine.

Unless otherwise indicated, the term 'C1-6 alkyl', when used alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched chain alkyl moiety having from one to six carbon atoms, including methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl and the like. 'C1-4 alkyl' will be understood accordingly to mean a straight or branched chain alkyl moiety having from one to four carbon atoms.

The term 'cycloalkyl' refers to a saturated alicyclic moiety having five, six or seven carbon atoms and includes, for example, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl. A heterocycloalkyl ring refers to a saturated five, six or seven membered ring comprising one or more ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S and includes for example piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl.

'Optionally substituted' is used herein to indicate optional substitution by the group or groups specified at any suitable available position.

Suitably, ring B is a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms such as phenyl or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing from one to four nitrogen ring atoms, such as pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl, triazinyl or tetrazinyl.

Where ring B is a heteroaryl ring, this is preferably a six-membered ring containing from one to four nitrogen ring atoms, even more preferably a six-membered ring containing one or two nitrogen ring atoms, such as pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl.

In one preferred embodiment, ring B is a phenyl ring.

In another preferred embodiment, ring B is a six-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two nitrogen ring atoms. One preferred value for ring B is pyridinyl, especially 2-pyridinyl. A particularly preferred value for ring B is pyrimidinyl, more especially 2-pyrimidinyl.

R2 may be an aryl group having up to ten ring atoms, especially a monocyclic aryl group having six ring atoms (such as phenyl), substituted by one or more fluorine groups, but is preferably a C1-6 alkyl, especially C1-4 alkyl, group (such as methyl and especially ethyl) substituted by one or more fluorine groups.

Preferably R2 is substituted by one to five fluorine groups, especially by three or four fluorine groups.

In one preferred embodiment, R2 is C1-6 alkyl, especially C1-4 alkyl, substituted by three or four fluorine groups.

One preferred value for R2 is CF2CHF2.

In another particularly preferred embodiment, R2 is CH2CF3.

Suitably, n is 1 or 2 and is preferably 1. Preferably, the substituent R2O- on ring B is para to the ring junction.

R1 is suitably an optionally substituted group selected from C1-4 alkyl (such as methyl or ethyl), aryl having six ring atoms (such as phenyl), five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S (such as piperidinyl or tetrahydropyranyl) or C1-4 alkyl-heteroaryl wherein the heteroaryl has up to six ring atoms and comprises one or two ring heteroatoms selected from N, O and S (such as alkyl pyrimidinyl or alkyl pyridinyl).

Preferably, R1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.

In one preferred embodiment, R1 is unsubstituted.

In one preferred embodiment, R1 is a tetrahydropyranyl group, especially 4-tetrahydropyranyl.

In another preferred embodiment, R1 is a C2-3alkyl-pyrimidinyl group, optionally substituted on the pyrimidinyl ring.

One preferred value for R1 is 2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2-. Another particularly preferred value for R1 is 2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2CH2-.

Suitable optional substituents for R1 include one or more groups independently selected from NO2, CF3, CN, halogen, C1-4alkyl, carboxy(C1-4)alkyl, cycloalkyl,-OR4, -SR4, C1-4alkyl substituted with -OR4, SR4 (and its oxidised analogues), NR4, N-Y-R4, or C1-4alkyl-Y-NR4 where R4 is hydrogen, C1-6 alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or C1-6 alkyl-aryl, each independently optionally substituted by halogen, NO2, CN, CF3, C1-6 alkyl, -S-C1-6 alkyl, -SO-C1-6 alkyl, -SO2-C1-6 alkyl or C1-6 alkoxy; and Y is selected from –SO2- and –CO-.

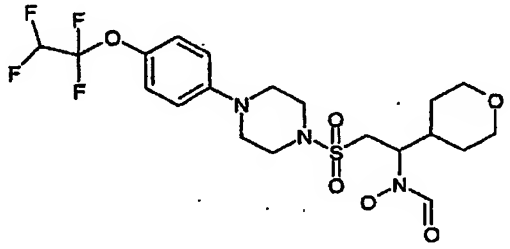
Where R1 in the compounds of formula (I) is substituted, this is preferably by one or two substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from C1-4 alkyl, halogen, CF3 and CN. A preferred substituent is halogen, particularly fluorine. Preferably where R1 is substituted, it is monosubstituted. One preferred value for R1 in the compounds of formula (I) where R1 is substituted is 5-F-2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2-

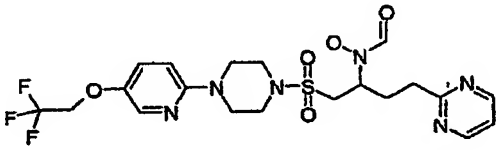
It will be appreciated that the number and nature of the substituents on rings formed by R1 and/or R2 in the compounds of the invention will be selected so as to avoid sterically undesirable combinations.

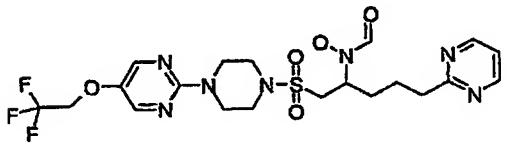
In one preferred group of compounds according to the invention, R2 is C1-6 alkyl, substituted by one to five fluorine groups; n is 1; ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl and R1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.

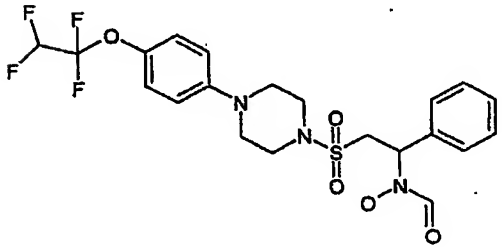
Particularly preferred compounds according to the invention within this group are those in which R1 is unsubstituted or is substituted by halogen, especially fluorine.

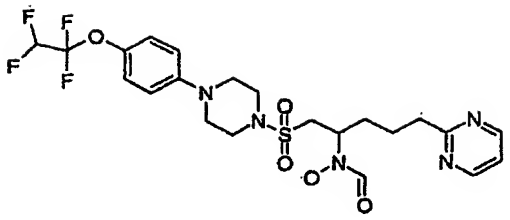
Specific compounds include

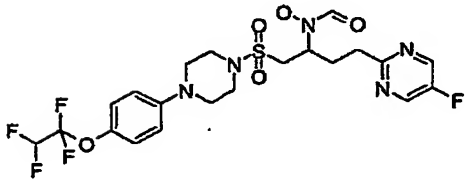


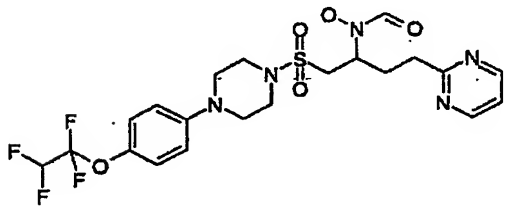


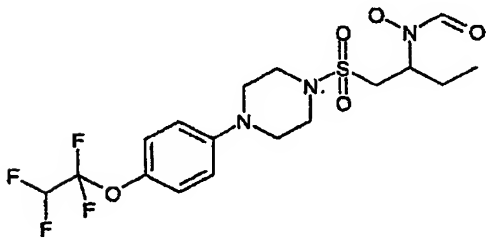


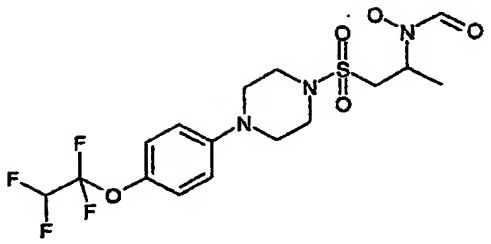


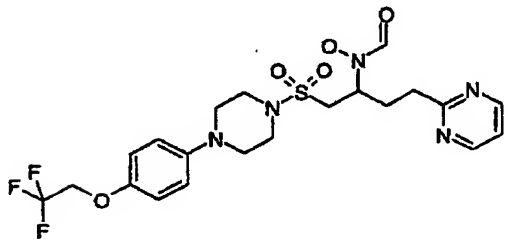


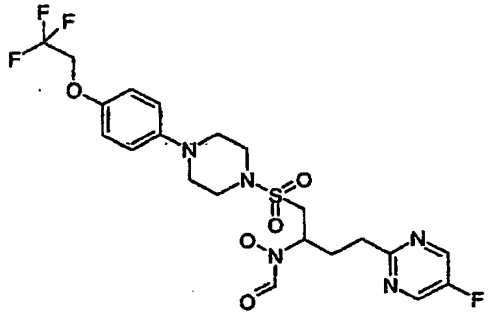


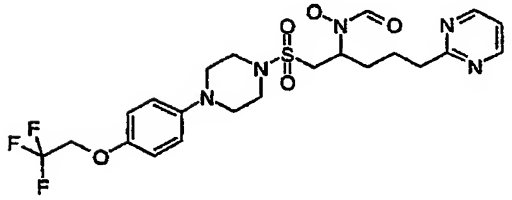


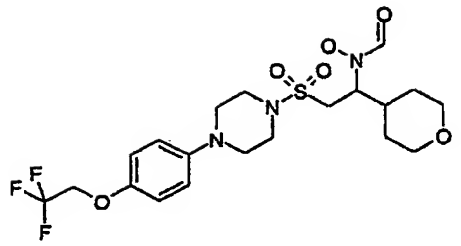


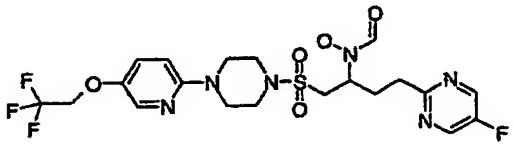


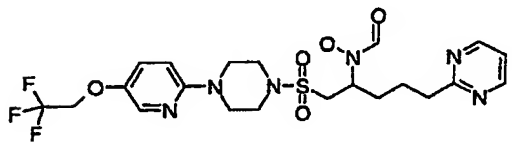


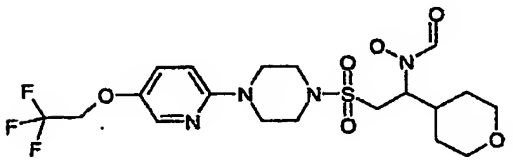


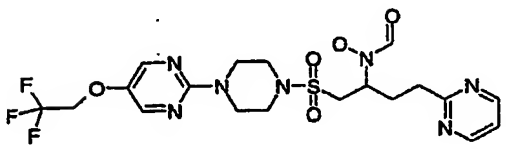


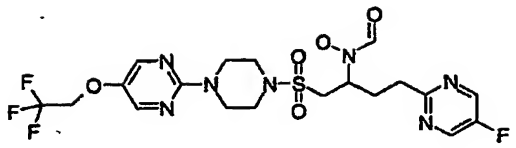


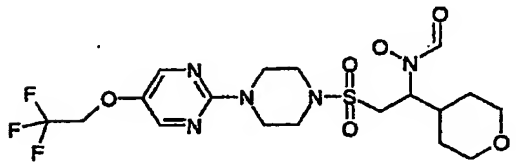












Where the compounds according to the invention contain one or more asymmetrically substituted carbon atoms, the invention includes all stereoisomers, including enantiomers and diastereomers, and mixtures including racemic mixtures thereof. Tautomers and mixtures thereof are also included.

Racemates may be separated into individual enantiomers using known procedures (cf. Advanced Organic Chemistry: 3rd Edition: author J March, p104-107). A suitable procedure involves formation of diastereomeric derivatives by reaction of the racemic material with a chiral auxiliary, followed by separation, for example by chromatography, of the diastereomers and then cleavage of the auxiliary species.

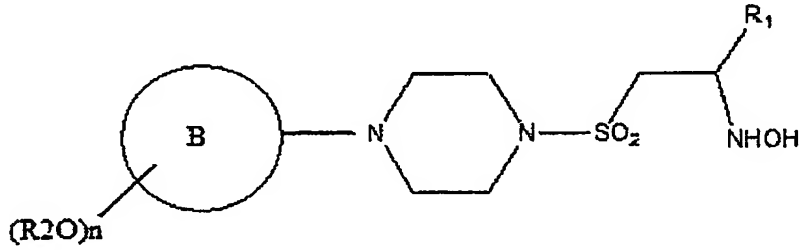
Without wishing to be limited by initial determinations, it is believed that in the present case the active enantiomer has S stereochemistry. This is based on comparison with related compounds for which the absolute configuration has been confirmed. Accordingly, the S-structure is shown in the formulae given in the examples below. It will be appreciated, however, that a racemate of any compound according to the invention can be resolved into the individual enantiomers by the method outlined above and the more active enantiomer can then be identified by a suitable assay, without the need to determine absolute configurations.

The compounds according to the invention may be provided as pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts include base salts such as an alkali metal salt for example sodium, an alkaline earth metal salt for example calcium or magnesium, an organic amine salt for example triethylamine, morpholine, *N*-methylpiperidine, *N*-ethylpiperidine, procaine, dibenzylamine, *N,N*-dibenzylethylamine or amino acids for example lysine. In another aspect, where the compound is sufficiently basic, suitable salts include acid addition salts such as methanesulphonate, fumarate, hydrochloride, hydrobromide, citrate, maleate and salts formed with phosphoric and sulphuric acid.

Suitable prodrugs of compounds of formula (I) are compounds which are hydrolysed *in vivo* to form compounds of formula (I). These may be prepared by conventional methods.

The present invention further provides a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined above, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, which comprises:

converting the appropriate hydroxyamino compound of the formula (IV)




(IV)

(wherein R2, n, ring B and R1 are as defined in formula (I))

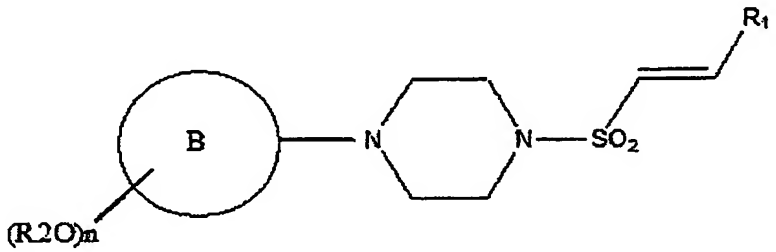
into a compound of formula (I) by formylation with an appropriate mixed anhydride ;

and thereafter, if necessary:

converting the compound obtained into a further compound according to the invention and/or forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug or solvate of the compound.

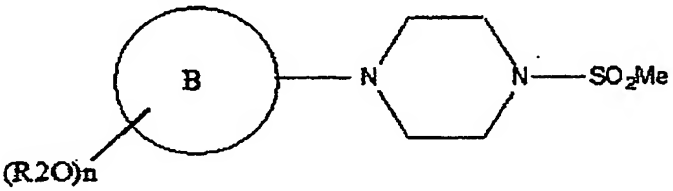
The formylation process may suitably be performed by reacting the compound of formula(IV) with the mixed anhydride prepared from reaction of formic acid and acetic anhydride. The reaction is conveniently performed in the presence of an organic acid such as formic acid. The reaction is preferably carried out in a suitable inert solvent or diluent, such as dichloromethane (DCM) or tetrahydrofuran and at a temperature in the range, for example, $O^0C$ to 50°C.

Compounds of formula (IV) may be prepared from the corresponding alkene of formula (III)




(III)

(wherein R2,n, B and R1 are as defined in formula (I))which may itself be prepared from the corresponding compound of formula (II)



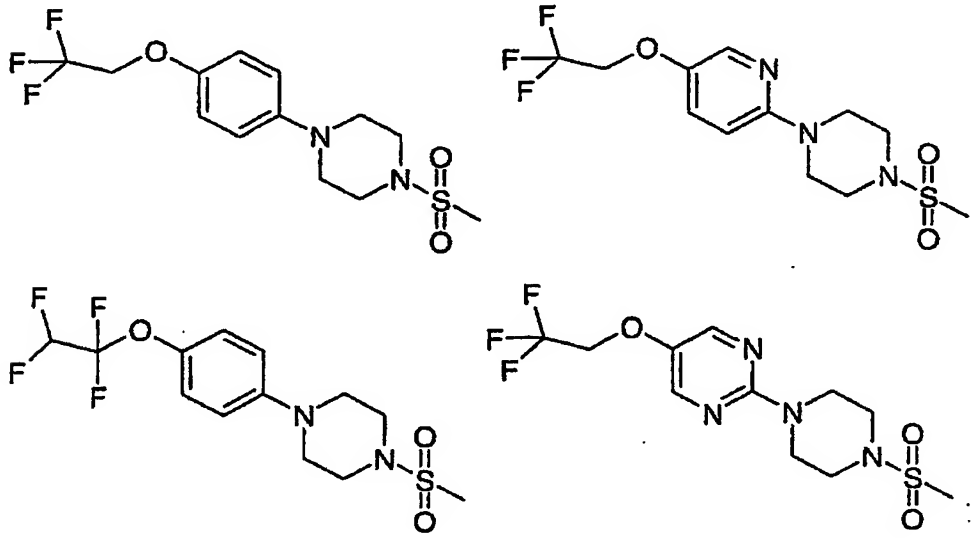

(II)

(wherein R2,n and ring B are as defined in formula (I))by reaction with an appropriate compound of the formula R1CHO (wherein R1 is as defined for formula(I)) or by reaction with an appropriate ester to give a ketone, followed by reduction to the corresponding alcohol and dehydration. It will be appreciated that the compound of formula (III) may be in the form of the E- or Z- isomer, or as a mixture of both. The structure as shown in formula (III) is not intended to imply limitation to any particular geometrical isomerism around the double bond.

Compounds of formulae (III) and (IV) may be prepared using known techniques by methods analogous to those described in WO 00/12478, WO 00/75108 and WO 01/62742

above. Examples of preparation methods for certain of these compounds are given hereinafter in the examples.

Compounds of formula (II), (III) and (IV) are novel and form a further aspect of the invention. Specific compounds of formula (II) include:-



Examples of preparation methods for these compounds are given hereinafter in the examples.

Compounds of formula (I) can be converted into further compounds of formula (I) using standard procedures conventional in the art.

It will be appreciated that the preparation of compounds of formula (I) may involve, at various stages, the addition and removal of one or more protecting groups. The protection and deprotection of functional groups is described in 'Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry', edited by J.W.F. McOmie, Plenum Press (1973) and 'Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis', 2nd edition, T.W. Greene and P.G.M. Wuts, Wiley-Interscience (1991).

The compounds of the invention are metalloproteinase inhibitors, in particular they are inhibitors of collagenase 3 (MMP13) and therefore are indicated in the treatment of diseases or conditions mediated by metalloproteinase enzymes including arthiritis (such as osteoarthiritis), atherosclerosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) as discussed above. In particular, the compounds of the invention are indicated in the treatment of diseases or conditions mediated by collagenase 3 (MMP13). A particular advantage of the collagenase 3 inhibitors according to the invention is that they exhibit improved selectivity over other metalloproteinases.

According to a further aspect, therefore, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as defined above for use in therapy of the human or animal body.

The invention also provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as defined above, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in therapy.

It will be appreciated that "therapy" also includes "prophylaxis" unless otherwise indicated. The terms "therapeutic" and "therapeutically" will be understood accordingly.

In a yet further aspect the present invention provides a method of treating a metalloproteinase mediated disease condition which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt , prodrug or solvate thereof.

It will be appreciated that dosage administered will vary depending on the compound employed, the mode of administration, the treatment desired and the disorder indicated. Typically, a daily dose of 0.5 to 75 mg/kg body weight (and preferably of 0.5 to 30 mg/kg body weight) is received. This daily dose may be given in divided doses as necessary, the precise amount of the compound received and the route of administration depending on the

weight, age and sex of the patient being treated and on the particular disease condition being treated according to principles known in the art.

The compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, prodrug and solvates thereof may be used on their own but will generally be administered in the form of a pharmaceutical composition in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

The present invention therefore also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

The pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may be administered in standard manner for the disease condition that it is desired to treat, for example by oral, topical, parenteral, buccal, nasal, vaginal or rectal adminstration or by inhalation. For these purposes the compounds of this invention may be formulated by means known in the art into the form of, for example, tablets, capsules, aqueous or oily solutions, suspensions, emulsions, creams, ointments, gels, nasal sprays, suppositories, finely divided powders or aerosols for inhalation, and for parenteral use (including intravenous, intramuscular or infusion) sterile aqueous or oily solutions or suspensions or sterile emulsions.

In addition to the compounds of the present invention the pharmaceutical composition of the invention may also contain, or be co-administered (simultaneously or sequentially) with, one or more pharmacological agents of value in treating one or more disease conditions referred to above. Typically unit dosage forms will contain about 1 mg to 500 mg of a compound according to the invention.

The activity and selectivity of the compounds according to the invention may be determined using an appropriate enzyme inhibition test as described in WO 00/12478, WO 00/75108 and WO 01/62742. Collagenase 3 (MMP13) inhibitory activity may be assessed, for example, using the procedure set out below:-

Recombinant human proMMP13 may be expressed and purified as described by Knauper *et al.* [V. Knauper *et al.*, (1996) The Biochemical Journal 271:1544-1550 (1996)]. The purified enzyme can be used to monitor inhibitors of activity as follows: purified proMMP13 is activated using 1mM amino phenyl mercuric acid (APMA), 20 hours at 21°C; the activated MMP13 (11.25ng per assay) is incubated for 4-5 hours at 35°C in assay buffer (0.1M Tris-HCl, pH 7.5 containing 0.1M NaCl, 20mM CaCl2, 0.02 mM ZnCl and 0.05% (w/v) Brij 35 using the synthetic substrate 7-methoxycoumarin-4-yl)acetyl.Pro.Leu.Gly.Leu.N-3-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)-L-2,3-diaminopropionyl.Ala.Arg.$NH_2$ in the presence or absence of inhibitors. Activity is determined by measuring the fluorescence at λex 328nm and λem 393nm. By measuring the activity at a range of concentrations, a binding curve can be generated from which the IC50 can be determined, this figure being the inhibitor concentration at which the enzyme activity is reduced by 50%.

It will be appreciated that the pharmacological properties of the compounds of the invention will vary according to their structure but in general, compounds of the invention demonstrate collagenase 3 inhibitory activity as determined by the above assay at IC50 concentrations in the range 0.01 to 1000nM. The following table shows IC50 figures for a representative selection of compounds according to the invention when tested in the above assay.

| Compound of Example No. | IC50 (nM) |
|---|---|
| 2b | 0.24 |
| 2f | 13.0 |
| 5 | 3.6 |
| 7a | 0.12 |
| 7c | 0.19 |
| 7f | 2.8 |
| 8b | 1.5 |
| 8g | 4.0 |

The invention is further illustrated by the following non-limiting examples.

The relevant starting materials are commercially available or may be made by any convenient method as described in the literature or known to the skilled chemist or described in the Examples herein. In addition the following table shows details of intermediates and their corresponding registry numbers in Chemical Abstracts.

| | Chemical Abstracts Registry Numbers |
|---|---|
| 5-iodo-2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidine | 497915-65-8 |
| ethyl 4-pyrimidin-2-ylbutanoate | 459818-75-8 |
| 4-pyrimidin-2ylbutanal | 260441-10-9 |
| ethyl 3-pyrimidin-2-ylpropanoate | 459818-76-9 |

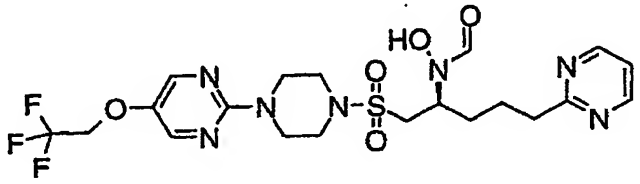
In the Examples, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were measured at room temperature on a BRUKER DPX spectrometer operating at a field strength of 400 MHz, unless otherwise stated. The spectra were referenced to an internal deuterium lock. Mass spectroscopy (MS) spectra were measured on a Micromass MZD (electrospray) spectrometer.

The following abbreviations are used:-

| | |
|---|---|
| DCM | dichloromethane |
| THF | tetrahydrofuran |
| LHMDS | lithium hexamethyldisilazide |
| DMSO | dimethylsulphoxide |
| TFA | trifluroacetic acid |

**EXAMPLE 1**

Hydroxy{(1*S*)-4-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-[({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)methyl]butyl}formamide



To formic acid (114 mL, 3.03 mol) at 0 °C was added acetic anhydride (28.6 mL, 0.303 mol) and the mixture was stirred at RT for 10 minutes. The reaction was then recooled to 0 °C, and added to a solution of 2-(4-{[2-(hydroxyamino)-5-pyrimidin-2-ylpentyl]sulfonyl}piperazin-1-yl)-5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidine (30.6 g, 60.5 mmol) and formic acid (114 mL, 3.03 mol) in THF (600 mL). The reaction was brought to room temperature and stirred for one hour. Volatiles were then removed *in vacuo*, and the residue azeotroped with toluene (2 x 300 mL). The residue was then dissolved in methanol (300 mL) and heated to 40 °C for one hour. The solution was then cooled to room temperature and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was then purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 10% MeOH in EtOAc) to give the racemic compound as a pale orange foam (22.94 g, 43 mmol, 71%).

The racemic mixture was separated by chiral HPLC using conditions shown below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Column | 20 µm Chiralpak AD, Merck 100 mm |
| Eluent | MeCN/MeOH 90/10 (7 min, isocratic) MeCN/MeOH 90/10 (step) MeCN/MeOH 85/15 (10 min, isocratic) MeCN/MeOH 85/15 (gradient, 1 min) MeCN/EtOH 85/15 (isocratic, 37 min). |
| Flow | 120 ml/min |

The single enantiomers can be obtained in a crystalline form using the following procedure.

40g of the title compound were stirred with ethanol (50 mL) at room temperature for 30 minutes. Solvent was remove *in vacuo*. The resulting solid was stirred in acetone (20 mL) at room temperature for 24 hours. Solvent was removed by a stream of Argon and then *in vacuo*.

$^1$H NMR (DMSO-D6, 373K) : 9.39 (br s, 1 H), 8.67 (d, 2H), 8.32 (s, 2 H), 8.15 (br s, 1 H), 7.28 (t, 1 H), 4.70 (q, 2 H), 4.39 (br s, 1 H), 3.79 (m, 4 H), 3.47 (dd, 1 H), 3.29 (m, 4 H), 3.17 (dd, 1 H), 2.91 (m, 2 H), 1.75 (m, 4 H)
MS (ESI): 534.01 ($MH^+$)
Mpt 129-133 °C

The starting material was prepared as follows:

To a stirred suspension of 5-iodo-2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidine (25.0g, 67.9 mmol), benzyl alcohol (125 mL), 1,10-phenanthroline (2.45 g, 20 mol%), and cesium carbonate was added copper (I) iodide (12.9 g, 67.9 mmol) and the reaction heated to 110$^0$C for 90 minutes then cooled to room temperature. DCM (250 mL) was then added and the insolubles filtered off through a pad of celite. The cake was washed with DCM (250 mL) and the DCM filtrates washed with water. The aqueous phase was then back extracted with more DCM (500 mL), the combined DCM extracts washed with brine (500 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to a dark brown sludge. This was then purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 50% EtOAc/hexanes) to give 5-(benzyloxy)-2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidine as an off white solid (14.2 g , 40.7 mmol, 60%).

$^1$H NMR ($CDCl_3$) : 8.20 (s, 2 H), 7.49 (m, 5 H), 5.05 (s, 2 H), 3.88 (m, 4 H), 3.30 (m, 4 H), 2.79 (s, 3 H)
MS (ESI): 349.08 ($MH^+$)

5-(benzyloxy)-2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidine (57.9 g, 0.17 mol) was dissolved in TFA (600 mL) and the reaction heated to reflux, with stirring, for 7 hours then

cooled to room temperature. The TFA was then *in vacuo* and the residue azeotroped with toluene (2 x 300 mL). The resulting solid was triturated with DCM, filtered off, washed with ether and dried to give 2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-5-ol as a pale yellow solid (54.4 g, 0.15 mol, 88%, TFA salt).

$^1$H NMR (DMSO-D6) : 8.02 (s, 2 H), 3.68 (m, 4 H), 3.12 (m, 4 H), 2.86 (s, 3 H)

To a stirred suspension of 2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-5-ol (53.5 g, 0.145 mol), $K_2CO_3$ (100.1 g, 0.725 mol) in acetone (1 L) was added 2,2,2-trifluoro ethyl nonafluorobutanesulphonate (78 g, 0.203 mol) and the reaction heated to 60$^0$C for 6 hours then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was then filtered and the filtrate evaporated to dryness. The residue was partitioned between DCM (500 mL) and water (500 mL), extracted with DCM (500 mL), combined organics washed with brine (500 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to give 2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]-5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidine as an off white solid (45.3g, 0.133 mol, 92%)

$^1$H NMR ($CDCl_3$) : 8.15 (s, 2 H), 4.32 (m, 2 H), 3.90 (m, 4 H), 3.30 (m, 4 H), 2.78 (s, 3 H)
MS (ESI): 341.08 ($MH^+$)

**Method 1**

To a stirred suspension of 2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]-5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidine (8.05 g, 23.6 mmol) in THF (175 mL) at -78$^0$C was added LHMDS (47.2 mL, 47.2 mmol) dropwise and the reaction stirred for 15 minutes. A solution of ethyl 4-pyrimidin-2-ylbutanoate (5.5 g, 28.3 mmol) in THF (50 mL) was then added at -78$^0$C, warmed to -20$^0$C and stirred for 2 hours. The reaction was then quenched by addition of a saturated solution of $NH_4Cl$ (250 mL), extracted twice with EtOAc (2 x 250 mL), combined organics were washed with brine (250 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a yellow solid. This was then purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 50% EtOAc/hexanes) to give5-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-({4-[5-(2,2,2-

trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)pentan-2-one as an off white solid (9.47 g, 19.4 mmol, 82%).

$^1$H NMR ($CDCl_3$) : 8.66 (d, 2 H), 8.16 (s, 2 H), 7.12 (t, 1 H), 4.30 (m, 2 H), 4.00 (s, 2 H), 3.82 (m, 4 H), 3.34 (m, 4 H), 2.98 (t, 2 H), 2.85 (t, 2 H), 2.16 (m, 2 H).
MS (ESI): 489.02 ($MH^+$)

To a stirred solution of 5-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)pentan-2-one (9.47 g, 19.4 mmol) in DCM/MeOH (100 mL/100 mL) was added $NaBH_4$ (807 mg, 21.3 mmol) portionwise and the reaction stirred at room temperature. The reaction was then quenched by addition of a saturated solution of $NH_4Cl$ (250 mL) and the organics removed *in vacuo*. The aqueous residue was then extracted with EtOAc (2 x 250 mL), combined organics washed with brine (250 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to give 5-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)pentan-2-ol as a white solid (9.10 g, 18.6 mmol, 96%).
MS (ESI): 491.13 ($MH^+$)

To a stirred solution of the 5-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)pentan-2-ol (9.10 g, 18.6 mmol), triethylamine (13 mL, 93.0 mmol) in DCM (200 mL) at $0^0$C was added methanesulfonyl chloride (2.16 mL, 27.9 mmol). The reaction was stirred at $0^0$C for 15 minutes, warmed to room temperature and stirred for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was then washed with water (200 mL) and the aqueous back extracted with DCM (200 mL). The combined DCM extracts were washed with brine (250 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to give 2-(4-{[(1*E*)-5-pyrimidin-2-ylpent-1-en-1-yl]sulfonyl}piperazin-1-yl)-5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidine as an orange solid (8.79 g, 18.6 mmol, 100%).
MS (ESI): 472.49 ($MH^+$)

To a stirred solution of 2-(4-{[(1*E*)-5-pyrimidin-2-ylpent-1-en-1-yl]sulfonyl}piperazin-1-yl)-5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidine (8.79 g, 18.6 mmol) in THF (90 mL) was added

50% aqueous solution of hydroxylamine (18 mL) and the reaction stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. A saturated solution of $NH_4Cl$ (200 mL) was then added and then this was extracted twice with extracted with EtOAc (2 x 250 mL), combined organics washed with brine (250 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to give 2-(4-{[2-(hydroxyamino)-5-pyrimidin-2-ylpentyl]sulfonyl}piperazin-1-yl)-5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidine as a pale yellow solid (8.96 g, 17.7 mmol, 95%).
MS (ESI): 506.05 ($MH^+$)

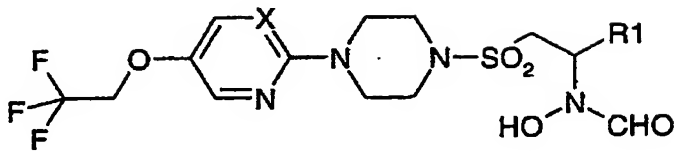
**Method 2**

To a stirred suspension of 2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]-5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidine (850 mg, 2.50 mmol) in THF (25 mL) at -78°C was added LHMDS (5.5 mL, 5.5 mmol) dropwise and the reaction stirred for 15 minutes. Diethyl chlorophosphate (0.4 mL, 2.75 mmol) was then added and stirred for 15 minutes. The solution was then treated drop wise with a solution of 4-pyrimidin-2-ylbutanal (413 mg, 2.75 mmol) in THF (5 mL), allowed to warm to -20°C and stirred for 1 hour. The reaction was then quenched by addition of a saturated solution of $NH_4Cl$ (100 mL), extracted twice with EtOAc (2 x 100 mL), combined organics were washed with brine (100 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a yellow oil. This was then purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 50% EtOAc/hexanes) to give 2-(4-{[(1*E*)-5-pyrimidin-2-ylpent-1-en-1-yl]sulfonyl}piperazin-1-yl)-5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidine as a yellow solid (1.13 g, 2.39 mmol, 96%).
MS (ESI): 472.49 ($MH^+$)

This was then elaborated through to 2-(4-{[2-(hydroxyamino)-5-pyrimidin-2-ylpentyl]sulfonyl}piperazin-1-yl)-5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidine and subsequently hydroxy{(1*S*)-4-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-[({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)methyl]butyl}formamide *via* same procedure as in Method 1.

**EXAMPLE 2**

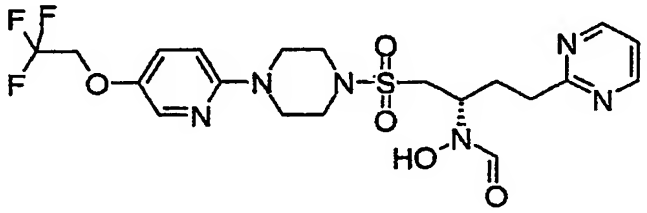
The following compounds were also prepared.



| No. | X | R1 | M+H | Prepared using method 1 or 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | C | 2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2CH2 | 532.98 | 2 |
| b | C | 2-Pyrimidinyl-5-FluoroCH2CH2 | 537.10 | 2 |
| c | C | 4-Tetrahydropyranyl | 497.02 | 1 |
| d | N | 2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2 | 519.88 | 2 |
| e | N | 2-Pyrimidinyl-5-FluoroCH2CH2 | 537.89 | 2 |
| f | N | 4-Tetrahydropyranyl | 498.09 | 1 |

**EXAMPLE 3**

Hydroxy{(1*S*)-3-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-[({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)methyl]propyl}formamide



To formic acid (54 mL, 1.4mol) at 8 $^0$C was added acetic anhydride (11 mL, 100 mmol) and the mixture was stirred at RT for 10 minutes. The mixed anhydride was then recooled

to 8 °C, and added to a solution, pre-cooled to 0 °C, 2-[3-(hydroxyamino)-4-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)butyl]pyrimidine (16.32 g, 33.3 mmol) in DCM (170 mL) and formic acid (65 mL, 1.7mol). The reaction was brought to RT and stirred for one hour. Volatiles were then removed *in vacuo*, and the residue azeotroped with toluene (2 x 50 mL). The residue was then dissolved in MeOH/DCM (1:1, 250 mL) and stirred overnight at RT. The solution was then concentrated *in vacuo*, and partitioned between DCM (250mL) and sat. $NaHCO_3$ (250 mL). The DCM layer was then filtered through silica gel (20g) washing with 5% MeOH/DCM and the volatiles removed *in vacuo* to give the racemic title compound as a pale yellow foam (15.68 g, 302 mmol, 91%).

The racemic mixture (86.5 g) was separated into enantiomers by chiral HPLC using the following conditions:

| | |
|---|---|
| Column | 20 µm Chiralpak AD, Merck 100 mm |
| Eluent | MeCN/MeOH 90/10 (17 min, isocratic) MeCN/MeOH 90/10 (step) MeCN/EtOH 90/10 (8 min, isocratic) MeCN/EtOH 90/10 (gradient, 1 min) MeCN/EtOH 85/15 (isocratic, 39 min). |
| Flow | 120 ml/min |

Concentrated *in vacuo* to a foam. Crystallised from hot ethanol (430 mL), filtered and washed with ethanol and ether. Dried to give the title compound as a white crystalline solid (28 g, 54 mmol).

$^1$H NMR (DMSO, 373K) : 9.41 (s, 1 H), 8.66 (d, 2 H), 8.07 (s, 1 H), 7.99 (d, 1H), 7.38 (dd, 1 H), 7.26 (t, 1 H), 6.83 (d, 1 H), 4.61 (q, 2 H), 4.45 (B, 1 H), 3.51 (t, 4 H), 3.47 (d, 1 H), 3.27 (t, 4 H), 3.24 (d, 1 H), 2.91 (t, 2 H), 2.17 (m, 2 H).

MS (ESI): 519 ($MH^+$)

Mpt 149-151 °C

The starting material was prepared as follows:

A vigorously stirred suspension of 1-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)piperazine (CAS number 73406-97-0, 116 g, 479 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (17.3 g, 96 mmol), Cesium carbonate (312 g, 960 mmol) and Copper (I) iodide (91 g, 480 mmol) in benzyl alcohol (960 mL) was stirred at 120 °C under an inert atmosphere for 24 hours, adding further aliquots of copper (I) iodide (5 x 91 g) every hour.

Cooled to 40 °C and diluted with DCM (1L), stirring at RT for 30 minutes. Filtered through celite, washing well with DCM (500 mL). The fractions were washed with NaOH (2M, 300 mL), combined and extracted with HCl (2M, 5 x 1L). The combined acidic extracts were washed with DCM (500 mL), cooled to 0 °C and extracted into DCM (1 L), basifying slowly with NaOH (~46 wt%) to pH10. The aqueous layer was further extracted with DCM (2 x 500 mL) and the volatiles removed *in vacuo*, to give 1-[5-(benzyloxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazine as a black liquor (104 g, 278 mmol @ 72 wt%, 58%).

$^1$H NMR ($CDCl_3$) : 8.0 (d, 1 H), 7.2 (dd, 1 H), 6.3 (d, 1 H), 5.0 (s, 2 H), 3.50 (s, 8H), 1.48 (s, 9 H), 3.4 (B, 5 H), 3.0 (B, 4 H).
MS (ESI): 270 ($MH^+$)

A stirred solution of of 1-[5-(benzyloxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazine (104 g, 278 mmol) in $CH_2Cl_2$ (1.1 L) at $0^0$C was treated sequentially with triethylamine (94 mL, 672 mmol) and methanesulfonyl chloride (31 mL, 400 mmol). The reaction was brought to RT and stirred for 3 hour. The reaction was then diluted with DCM (3 L) and washed with water (1 L), HCl (0.5 M, 2 x 800 mL) and sat. $NaHCO_3$ (800 mL), back-extracting with DCM (500 mL). The combined organic extracts were then dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to give 1-[5-(benzyloxy)pyridin-2-yl]-4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazine as a dark liquor (120 g, 278 mmol @ 81 wt%, 100%).

$^1$H NMR ($CDCl_3$) : 8.0 (d, 1 H), 7.35 (m, 5 H), 7.2, (dd, 1 H), 6.65 (d, 1 H), 5.05 (s, 2 H), 3.55 (t, 4 H), 3.3 (t, 4 H), 2.8 (s, 3 H).
MS (ESI): 348 ($MH^+$)

1-[5-(benzyloxy)pyridin-2-yl]-4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazine (120 g, 278 mmol) was dissolved in TFA (1.3 L) and the reaction heated to reflux, with stirring, for 3 hours then cooled to room temperature. The TFA was then removed *in vacuo* and the residue azeotroped with toluene (2 x 300 mL). The resulting liquor was diluted with DCM (100 mL) and slowly neutralised to pH8 with sat. $NaHCO_3$ (700 mL). The suspension was filtered, washed with water, minimum DCM and ether and dried to give 6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridin-3-ol as a beige solid (69 g, 270 mol, 97%).

$^1H$ NMR (DMSO-D6) : 7.7 (d, 1 H), 7.1 (dd, 1 H), 6.75 (d, 1 H), 3.45 (t, 4 H), 3.2 (t, 4 H), 2.85 (s, 3 H)
MS (ESI): 257 ($MH^+$)

To a stirred suspension of 6-[4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridin-3-ol (69 g, 270 mmol), $K_2CO_3$ (112 g, 810 mmol) in acetone (1.8 L) was added 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl nonafluorobutanesulphonate and/or 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl trifluoromethanesulphonate (total 324 mmol) and the reaction stirred for 18 hours at room temperature. The reaction mixture was then filtered and the filtrate evaporated to dryness. The residue was extracted between DCM (2.5 L, 500 mL) and water (1.5 L, 300 mL), extracted with DCM (500 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$) and filtered. Concentrated *in vacuo*, diluting with EtOH, to a low volume, filtered and dried to give 1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazine as an off white solid (62g, 183 mmol, 68%)

$^1H$ NMR (CDCl3) : 8.0 (d, 1 H), 7.25 (dd, 1 H), 6.65 (d, 1 H), 4.3 (q, 2 H), 3.6 (t, 4 H), 3.35 (t, 4 H), 2.8 (s, 3 H)
MS (ESI): 340 ($MH^+$)

To a stirred suspension of 1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazine (13.3 g, 39.2 mmol) in THF (200 mL) at -70$^0$C was added LHMDS (75 mL, 75 mmol) drop wise and the reaction stirred for 20 minutes. A solution of ethyl 3-pyrimidin-2-ylpropanoate (9.2 g, 51 mmol) in THF (55 mL) was then added at -70$^0$C, warmed to -20$^0$C and stirred for 2 hours. The reaction was then quenched by addition of a

saturated solution of $NH_4Cl$ (250 mL), extracted twice with EtOAc (3 x 250 mL), combined organics were washed with brine (250 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a yellow solid. The solid was stirred for 20 minutes in 20% isoHexane/ether (100 mL), filtered and washed with isoHexane and dried to give 4-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)butan-2-one as an off white solid (15.2 g, 32.2 mmol, 82%).

$^1H$ NMR (CDCl3) : 8.6 (d, 2 H), 7.95 (d, 1 H), 7.2 (dd, 1 H), 7.1 (t, 1 H), 6.6 (d, 1 H), 4.30 (q, 2 H), 4.15 (s, 2 H), 3.55 (t, 4 H), 3.4 (t, 4 H), 3.35 (t, 2 H), 3.3 (t, 2 H).

MS (ESI): 472 ($MH^+$)

To a stirred solution of 4-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)butan-2-one (15 g, 31.6 mmol) in 10% MeOH/DCM (300 mL) was added $NaBH_4$ (0.52 g, 15.8 mmol) portionwise and the reaction stirred at room temperature for 45 minutes. The reaction was then quenched by addition of a saturated solution of $NH_4Cl$ (100 mL), diluted with water (150 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 x 200 mL), combined organics dried (brine, $MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Triturated with ether, filtered and dried to give 4-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyrimidin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)butan-2-ol as a cream solid (13.8 g, 29.0 mmol, 92%).

MS (ESI): 476 ($MH^+$)

To a stirred solution of the 4-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)butan-2-ol (13.7 g, 28.8 mmol) in DCM (250 mL) at $0^0C$ was added methanesulfonyl chloride (2.68 mL, 34.6 mmol). The reaction was stirred at $0^0C$ for 20 minutes before dropwise addition of triethylamine (18.1 mL, 129 mmol). Warmed to room temperature and stirred for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was then diluted with DCM (1 L), washed with water (150 mL) and dried (brine, $MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was then purified by flash chromatography (silica, 0 - 5% MeOH in DCM) to give 2-[(3*E*)-4-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-

yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)but-3-en-1-yl]pyrimidine as a yellow solid (11.9 g, 18.6 mmol, 90%).

MS (ESI): 458 ($MH^+$)

To a stirred solution of 2-[(3*E*)-4-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)but-3-en-1-yl]pyrimidine (10.9 g, 23.7 mmol) in THF (200 mL) was added 50% aqueous solution of hydroxylamine (11 mL) and the reaction stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. Water (100 mL) was then added and then this was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL) and dried (brine, $MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to give 2-[3-(hydroxyamino)-4-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)butyl]pyrimidine as a pale yellow solid (11.1 g, 22.6 mmol, 96%).

MS (ESI): 491 ($MH^+$)

Alternatively, the starting material was prepared as follows:

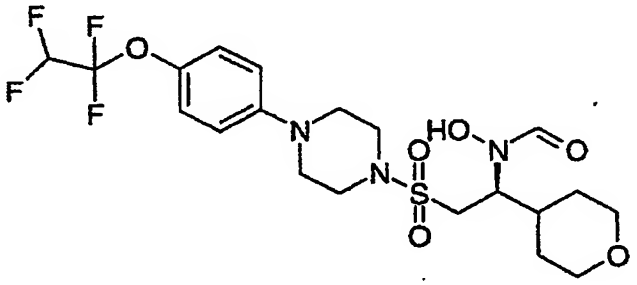
To a stirred suspension 1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazine (23 g, 67.8 mmol, prepared as above) in THF (450 mL) at -65$^0$C, was added drop wise a solution of LiHMDS in THF (149 mL, 1.0M solution, 149 mmol). Stirred for 30 minutes. Added diethyl chlorophosphate (11.3 mL, 78 mmol) and stirred for 1 hour. The solution was treated drop wise with a solution of 3-(2-pyridinyl)propaldehyde (12 g, 88.1 mmol) in THF (290 mL) and then allowed to warm to 0 °C over 3 hours before being quenched with a solution of hydroxylamine (41 mL, 50% aqueous solution in water, 680 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 16 hours at RT. The reaction was washed with sat. NH4Cl (250 mL) back-extracting with ethyl acetate (250 mL). The combined organic extracts were then dried (brine and $MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was then triturated with ether for 1 hour, filtered and dried to give 2-[3-(hydroxyamino)-4-({4-[5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)pyridin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)butyl]pyrimidine (31.5 g, 64.3 mmol, 95 %).

$^1$H NMR ($CDCl_3$) : 8.65 (d, 2 H), 8.0 (d, 1 H), 7.25 (dd, 1 H), 7.15 (t, 1 H), 6.65 (d, 1 H), 4.3 (q, 2 H), 3.55 (m, 6 H), 3.4 (t, 4 H), 3.2 (t, 2 H), 2.9 (d, 1 H), 2.25 (m, 1 H), 2.1 (m, 1 H).

MS (ESI): 491 ($MH^+$)

**EXAMPLE 4**

Hydroxy[(1*S*)-2-({4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)ethyl]formamide



To a ice-cooled solution of 1-{[(2*S*)-2-(hydroxyamino)-2-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)ethyl]sulfonyl}-4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine (52.9 g, 0.1 mol) in a mixed solvent system of THF / formic acid (1 L / 20 mL) was added a preformed mixture of formic acid (19 mL) and acetic anhydride (65 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvents were then evaporated to low volume and the residue partitioned between dichloromethane (500 mL) and saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution. The organic layer was separated, dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated to an oil. This was then stirred overnight in methanol (500 mL) and then concentrated to yield the monoformylated product as a white solid. The solid contained a few impurities therefore it was stirred in diethyl ether for 4 hours before being filtered and dried to yield hydroxy[(1*S*)-2-({4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)ethyl]formamide. (51.41 g, 92%).

Hydroxy[(1*S*)-2-({4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)ethyl]formamide (51.4 g) was dissolved in hot methanol (80 mL) and then allowed to cool slowly overnight to room temperature. The white crystalline solid was filtered and dried. This solid was then stirred in isopropanol (190 mL) for 24 hours before being filtered and dried at 50 °C overnight. The crystalline material was washed with diethyl ether and redried for 2 days.

NMR (400Mz, DMSO-$D_6$), δ/ppm: 9.95 and 9.60 (1 H, s), 8.30 and 8.00 (1 H, s), 7.15 (2 H, d), 7.05 (2 H, d), 6.75 (1 H, tt), 4.45 and 3.85 (1 H, t), 3.85 (2 H, m), 3.40 (2 H, m), 3.25 (10 H, m), 1.75 (2 H, m), 1.50 (1 H, m), 1.25 (2 H, m).

*m/z* (ES) 514 ($MH^+$)

mpt 175-176 °C

The starting material was prepared as follows:

1-Bromo-4-tetrafluoroethoxybenzene (CAS Number 68835-05-9, 12g, 0.044M) was dissolved in toluene (250ml) under an argon atmosphere. N-Boc –piperazine (CAS Number 57260-71-6, 9.79g, 0.053M), sodium t-butoxide (5.93g, 0.062M), BINAP (96 mg) and dipalladium-tri-dibenzylidene acetone (96mg) were added. Stirred at 80°C for 4 hours, cooled and filtered off the insoluble material (washing with toluene). The filtrate was evaporated to dryness to yield crude *t*-butyl 4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine-1-carboxylate. Yield 15.36g (92%)

1H NMR (CDCL3): δ 7.10 (D, 2H), 6.90 (D,2H), 5.90 (TT,1H), 3.60 (M,4H), 3.15 (M,4H), 1.50 (S,9H)

MS (ES): 323.0 (MH-T-BUTYL)

Crude *t*-butyl 4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine-1-carboxylate (15.30g,0.04M) was dissolved in CH2Cl2 (150ml) and TFA (30ml) was added. The

mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, evaporated to dryness and azeotroped with toluene. The residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate and saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and the organic phase was collected, dried over MgSO4, filtered and evaporated to dryness to yield 1-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine as a solid (10.97g, 98%)

1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 7.15 (d, 2H), 6.90 (d, 2H), 5.90 (t, 1H), 3.35 (m, 8H).

MS (ES): 279.0

1-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine (10.95g,0.04) was dissolved in CH2Cl2 (500ml) and triethylamine (18.5ml, 0.13M) was added. The mixture was cooled to 0°C and methane sulphonyl chloride (7.4ml, 0.048M) added. Allowed to reach ambient temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was washed with water and the organic phase collected, dried over MgSO4, filtered and evaporated to dryness. The residual solid was crystallised from ethanol to yield 1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine as a white solid. Yield 12.3g (78.5%)

1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 7.15 (d, 2H), 6.95 (d, 2H), 5.9 (tt,1H), 3.35 (m,4H), 3.3 (m,4H), 2.8 (s, 3H)

MS (ES): 357.26 (MH+)

The 1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine (2.85g, 0.008M) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (200ml) and cooled to –10°C under an argon atmosphere. 1.0M solution of lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide in THF (17.6ml, 0.0176M) was added with cooling to –30°C and the mixture added a solution of methyl-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4- carboxylate (CAS Number 110238-91-0) in THF (2ml). This was allowed to reach room temperature and stirred for 2 hours. The reaction was quenched with saturated NH4Cl solution and diluted with H2O and ethyl acetate. The organic phase was collected, dried over MgSO4, filtered and evaporated to dryness to yield crude 2-({4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)ethanone. (3.64g,97%)

1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 7.15 (d, 2H), 6.95 (d, 2H), 5.90 (tt, 1H), 4.05 (s, 2H), 4.00 (m, 2H) 3.50 (m, 6H), 3.25 (m, 4H), 2.95 (m, 1H), 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 2H).
MS (ES): 469.08 ($MH^+$)

Crude 2-({4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)ethanone (3.60g,0.008M) was dissolved in CH2Cl2 (120ml) and methanol (40ml) at ambient temperature and sodium borohydride (334mg, 0.0088M) was added. Stirred for 2 hours, added H2O (250ml) and extracted with CH2Cl2. Collected the organic phase, dried over MgSO4, filtered and evaporated to dryness to yield 2-({4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)ethanol (3.6g, 95 %).
1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 7.15 (d, 2H), 6.90 (d, 2H), 5.90 (tt, 1H), 4.00 (m, 2H), 4.00 (m, 1H) 3.45 (m, 4H), 3.40 (m, 2H), 3.25 (m, 4H), 3.10 (m, 2H), 3.05 (m, 1H), 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.50 (m, 3H)..
MS (ES): 471.08 ($MH^+$)

2-({4=[4=(1,1,2,2=tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)ethanol (3.6g,0.008M) was dissolved in CH2Cl2 (100ml) and triethylamine (5.58ml,0.04M) was added. The mixture was cooled to 0°C and methane sulphonyl chloride (0.94ml, 0.012M) added with stirring at room temperature overnight. Water was added and the organic phase separated off, dried over MgSO4, filtered and evaporated to dryness to yield 1-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]-4-{[(*E*)-2-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)vinyl]sulfonyl}piperazine. Yield (3.15g, 86.6%).
1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 7.1 (d,2H), 6.9 (d,2H), 6.75 (dd, 1H), 6.1 (d,1H), 5.85 (tt,1H), 4.0 (m, 2H), 3.4 (m,2H), 3.25 (m,8H), 2.5 (m,1H), 1.7 (m, 2H), 1.55 (m,2H)

MS (ES): 452.88 (MH+)

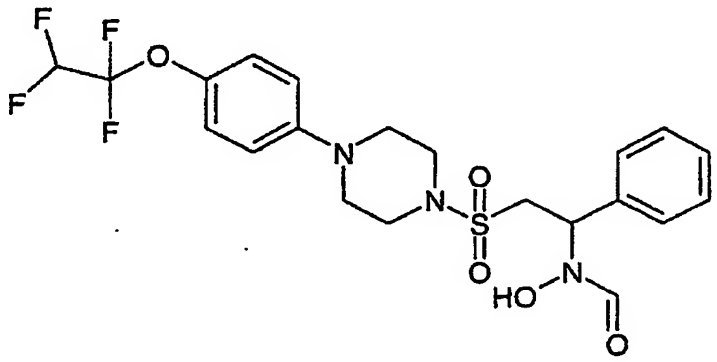
1-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]-4-{[(*E*)-2-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)vinyl]sulfonyl}piperazine (3.13g, 0.007M) was dissolved in THF (50ml) and 50% hydroxylamine in H2O (12ml) was added. Stirred at ambient temperature overnight,

quenched with saturated NH4Cl solution and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was dried over MgSO4, filtered and evaporated to dryness to yield racemic 1-{[2-(hydroxyamino)-2-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4- yl)ethyl]sulfonyl}-4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine This was separated into its enantiomers using an AD Chiralpak chiral prep HPLC column and eluting with 20% methanol/acetonitrile . The second compound off the column gave the required enantiomer, 1-{[(2*S*)-2-(hydroxyamino)-2-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4- yl)ethyl]sulfonyl}-4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine.

1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 7.2 (d, 2H), 6.9 (d, 2H), 5.9 (tt, 1H), 3.85 (m, 2H), 3.5-3.1 (m, 11H), 3.05 (m, 2H), 1.951.8 (dd, 2H), 1.6 (d, 2H), 1.35 (m, 2H)
MS (ES): 485.92 (MH+)

**EXAMPLE 5**

Hydroxy[1-phenyl-2-({4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)ethyl]formamide



This compound was prepared using the method given in example 4

1H NMR (CDCl3): δ NMR (CDCl3): 8.45 and 8.2 (d, 1H), 7.4 (m, 5H), 7.15 (d, 2H), 6.85 (d, 2H), 5.9 (tt, 1H), 5.5 (d, 1H), 3.4 (br s, 4H), 3.3 (s2H), 3.15 (br, 4H)

The intermediate 1-[(-2-phenylvinyl)sulphonyl]-4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine was prepared as shown below:

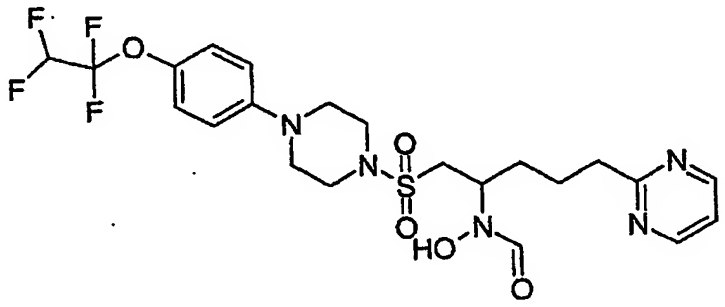
1-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine (1.39g, 0.005M) was dissolved in CH2Cl2 (250ml) and triethylamine (2.1ml, 0.015M) was added. This was cooled to 0°C and styrene sulphonyl chloride (CAS Number 52147-97-4, 1.11g, 0.0055M) was added. Allowed to reach ambient temperature and stirred overnight. Washed with H2O and separated off the organic phase. Dried over MgSO4, filtered and evaporated to dryness to an oil which was purified by flash column chromatography (Merck 9385 silica), eluting with 80% iso-hexane/ethyl acetate to yield 1-[(-2-phenylvinyl)sulphonyl]-4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine as a yellow solid. Yield 650mg (25%)

1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 7.5 (m,3H), 7.4 (m,3H), 7.15 (d,2H), 6.9 (d,2H), 6.7 (d,1H), 5.85 (tt,1H), 3.4 (m,4H), 3.25 (m,4H)

**MS (ES): 445.27 (MH+)**

**EXAMPLE 6**

Hydroxy{4-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-[({4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)methyl]butyl}formamide



This compound was prepared using the method given in example 4

MS (ES): 550.03 (MH+)

The intermediate 2-[5-({4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafloroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulphonyl)pent-4-en-1-yl]pyrimidine was prepared as shown below:

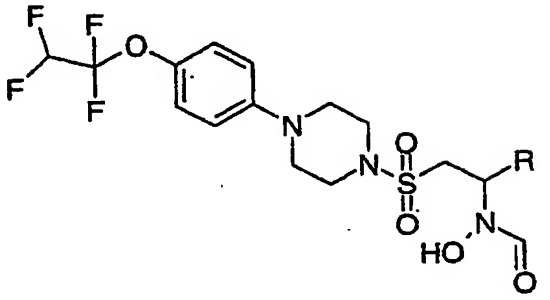
1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine (356mg, 0.001M) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (100ml) and cooled to –10°C under an argon atmosphere. 1.0M solution of lithium bis-(trimethylsilyl)amide in THF (2.2ml, 0.0022M) was added and stirred at –10°C for 30 minutes, followed by addition of diethylchlorophosphate (0.15ml, 0.001M) with stirring at –10°C for a further 30 minutes. A solution of 2-pyrimidinyl-4-butyraldehyde in anhydrous THF (5ml) was added, the mixture stirred at –10°C for 60 minutes and while still cold the reaction was quenched with saturated NH4Cl solution. Following dilution with H2O and ethyl acetate, the organic phase was collected, dried over MgSO4, filtered and evaporated to dryness to yield an oil. Purification by flash column chromatography (Merck9385 silica), eluting with ethyl acetate gave 2-[5-({4-[4-(1,1,2,2-tetrafloroethoxy)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}sulphonyl)pent-4-en-1-yl]pyrimidine. Yield 230mg (47%).

1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 8.8 (d,2H), 7.2 (s,1H), 7.1 (d,2H), 6.85 (d,2H), 6.2 (d,2H), 5.8 (tt,1H), 4.05 (br,1H), 3.25 (br,8H), 3.05 (m,2H), 2.3 (m,1H), 2.05 (m,2H), 1.4 (m, 2H)

MS (ESI): 489 (MH+)

**EXAMPLE 7**

The following compounds were also synthesised



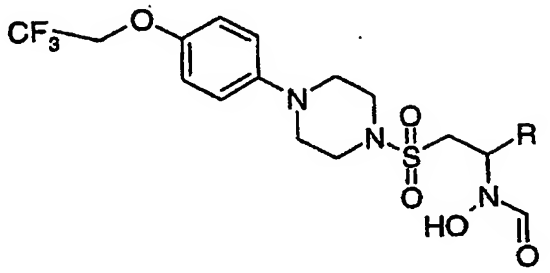
| No. | R | Racemate or S enantiomer | MH+ | Prepared using method in example |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | 2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2CH2 | S enantiomer | 550.00 | 6 *I* |
| b | 5-F-2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2 | Racemate | 554.17 | 6 |
| c | 5-F-2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2 | S enantiomer | 553.94 | 6 *II* |
| d | 2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2 | Racemate | 535.98 | 6 |
| e | 2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2 | S enantiomer | 535.98 | 6 *II* |
| f | ethyl | Racemate | 457.95 | 6 |
| g | methyl | Racemate | 443.97 | 6 |

*I* enantiomer separated by an OJ chiral prep HPLC column, eluting with methanol

*II* enantiomer separated by an AD chiralpak prep HPLC column, eluting with 20%methanol/ acetonitrile

**EXAMPLE 8**

The following compounds were prepared as described in previous examples.



| No. | | R | $MH^+$ | Prepared using method in example |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | Racemate | 2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2 | 517.99 | 6 |
| b | S enantiomer | 2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2 | 518.12 | 6 *I* |
| c | Racemate | 5-F-2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2 | 535.88 | 6 |
| d | S enantiomer | 5-F-2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2 | 536.00 | 6 *II* |
| e | Racemate | 2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2CH2 | 531.88 | 6 |
| f | S enantiomer | 2-PyrimidinylCH2CH2CH2 | 532.04 | 6 *I* |
| g | S enantiomer | 4-tetrahydropyran | 496.10 | 4 *III* |

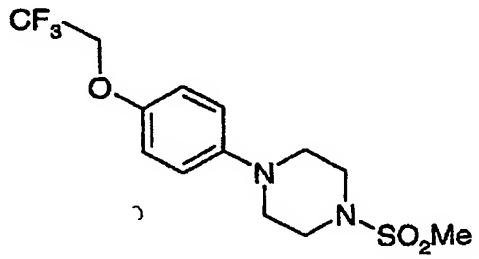
*I* Separated on a Chiralpak AD column, eluting with 10% MeOH, MeCN

*II* Separated on a Chiralpak AD column, eluting with 15% MeOH, MeCN

*III* Separated at the hydroxylamine stage on a a Chiralpak AD column, eluting with 20% MeOH, MeCN

The starting material for these syntheses was prepared as follows:

**1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-[4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine**



Potassium carbonate (22.89 g, 166 mmol) and 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (16.0 g, 69 mmol) were added to a solution of 4-bromophenol (9.57 g, 55 mmol) in acetone (200 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight then filtered and concentrated at 300 mbar, 30 °C to remove the acetone. This yielded 1-bromo-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzene as a waxy solid (>100% yield as some acetone still present).

$^1$H NMR (400Mz, DMSO-$D_6$), δ: 7.50 (2 H, d), 7.05 (2 H, d), 4.75 (2 H, q).

1-bromo-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzene (14.5 g, 57 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (250ml) under an argon atmosphere. *tert*-Butyl piperazine-1-carboxylate (12.7 g, 68 mmol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (7.6 g, 79.5 mmol) rac-2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthyl (200 mg, 0.32 mmol) and tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium(0) (200 mg, 0.2 mmol) were added and the reaction heated to 80 °C for 4 hours. The mixture was then cooled and filtered through Celite to yield crude *tert*-butyl 4-[4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine-1-carboxylate (32.47 g).

1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 6.90 (4 H, s), 4.30 (2 H, q), 3.60 (4 H, m), 3.05 (4 H, m), 1.45 (9 H, s)

*m/z* (ES) 305 ($MH^+$ - $^t$Bu)

Crude *tert*-butyl 4-[4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine-1-carboxylate

(32.47 g, approx 57 mmol) was dissolved in $CH_2Cl_2$ (300ml) and TFA (69 mL) was added. The reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight then evaporated to dryness, azeotroping with toluene. The residue was partitioned between $CH_2Cl_2$ and saturated sodium bicarbonate solution. The organic phase was separated, dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated to yield 1-[4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine as a solid (13.48 g, 91%)

1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 6.90 (4 H, s), 4.30 (2 H, q), 3.30 (8 H, m).

*m/z* (ES) 261 $MH^+$

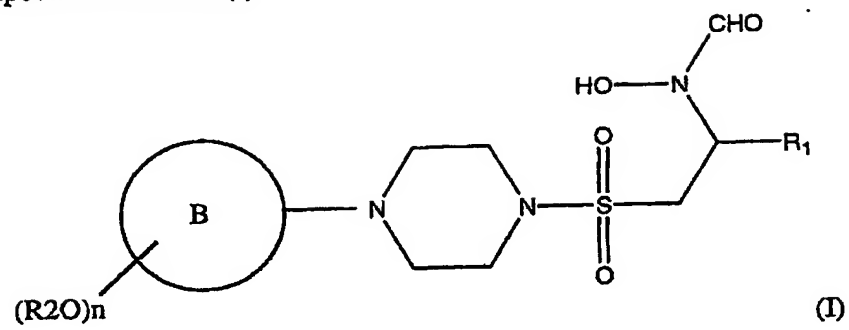
1-[4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine (13.48 g, 50 mmol) was dissolved in $CH_2Cl_2$ (500 mL) and cooled to 0°C. Triethylamine (29 mL, 0.2 mol) was added, followed by the dropwise addition of methanesulfonyl chloride (4.2 mL, 55 mmol). The reaction was then allowed to warm to room temperature and stir overnight, before being quenched by the addition of water. The layers were separated, and the organic phase dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated. The residue was recrystallised from hot ethanol to give pure 1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-[4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)phenyl]piperazine (3.3 g, 18%).

1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 6.90 (4 H, s), 4.30 (2 H, q), 3.40 (4 H, m), 3.20 (4 H, m), 2.85 (3 H, s).

*m/z* (ES) 339 $MH^+$

## CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)




(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof,

wherein ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1,2 or 3; and

R1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl , aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein B is monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing from one to four nitrogen ring atoms.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl.

4. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R2 is a C1-6 alkyl group substituted by one to five fluorine groups.

5. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R2 is substituted by three or four fluorine groups.

6. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R2 is the group - CF2CHCF2.

7. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R2 is the group –CH2CF3.

8. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein n is 1.

9. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R1 is an optionally substituted group selected from C1-4 alkyl, aryl having six ring atoms, a five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S or a C1-4 alkyl-heteroaryl group wherein the heteroaryl has up to six ring atoms and comprises one or two ring heteroatoms selected from N, O and S

10. A compound according to claim 9 wherein R1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.

11. A compound according to claim 9 or 10 wherein R1 is unsubstituted.

12. A compound according to claim 9 or 10 wherein R1 is substituted by one or two substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from C1-4 alkyl, halogen, CF3 and CN.

13. A compound according to claim 12 wherein R1 is substituted by fluorine.

14. A compound according to claim 11 or claim 13 wherein R1 is tetrahydropyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2-, 2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2CH2- or 5-F-2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2-.

15. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R2 is C1-6 alkyl, substituted by one to five fluorine groups; n is 1; ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl and R1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

17. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 16 which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 15 with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

18. A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 for use in therapy.

19. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a disease condition mediated by one or more metalloproteinase enzymes.

20. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a disease condition mediated by collagenase 3

21. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an obstructive airways disease.

22. Use according to claim 21, wherein the obstructive airways disease is asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

23. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of osteoarthritis.

24. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of atherosclerosis.

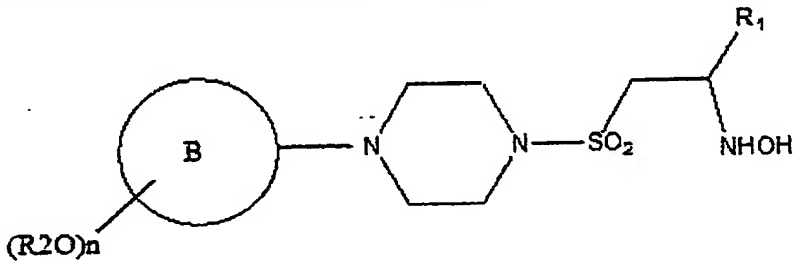
25. A method of treating a metalloproteinase mediated disease condition which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15.

26. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15.

27. A method of treating an obstructive airways disease which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15.

28. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, which comprises:

converting the appropriate hydroxyamino compound of the formula (IV)




(IV)

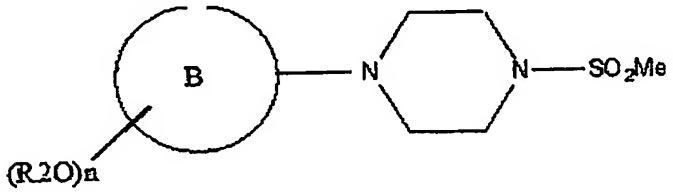
(wherein R2, n, ring B and R1 are as defined in formula (I))

into a compound of formula (I) by formylation with an appropriate mixed anhydride;

and optionally thereafter carrying out one or more of the following:

converting the compound obtained into a further compound according to the invention and/or forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug or solvate of the compound.

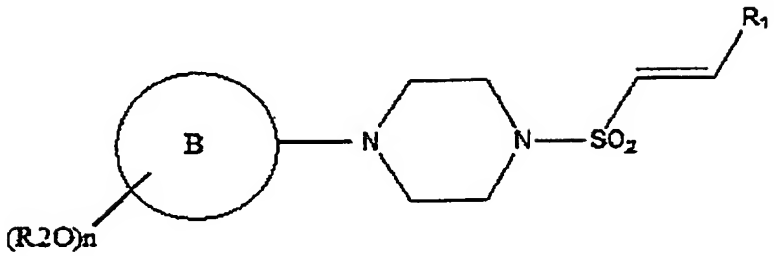
29. A compound of formula (II)




(II)

wherein R2, n and ring B are as defined in formula (I) in claim 1.

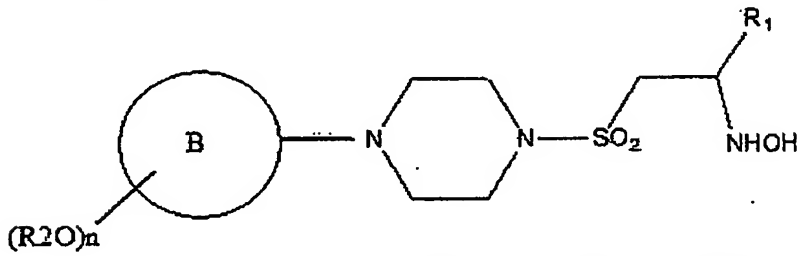
30. A compound of formula (III)




(III)

wherein R2,n, ring B and R1 are as defined in formula (I) in claim 1.

31. A compound of formula (IV)



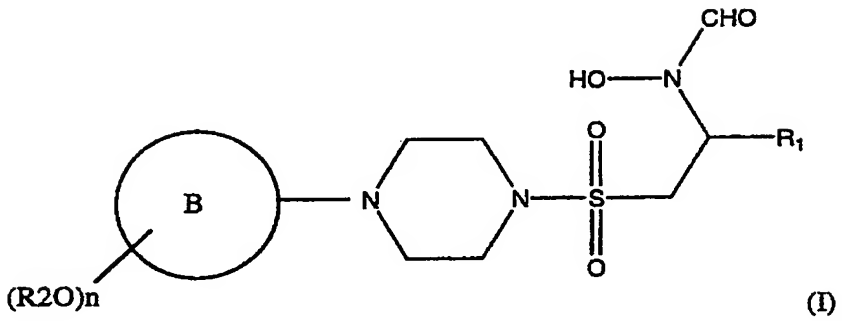

(IV)

wherein R2, n, ring B and R1 are as defined for formula (I) in claim 1.

## ABSTRACT

## NOVEL COMPOUNDS

The invention provides compounds of formula (I)

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R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1,2 or 3; and

R1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl , aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.

Processes for their preparation; pharmaceutical compositions containing them; and their use in therapy are also described.